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Re : Cocktail Party for Dynamo Team at Penn Garden Hotel (7th Ave and 30th Street) ,N.Y.C. on 10 March 1969

Source:

Date : 13 Mar 1969

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. The party was given by various American Soccer Associations and Clubs on agreement with the Soviet Ukrainian Mission in New York. On "emigre side" active in arranging the party was Jerry YANCHIK of New York, N.Y. whose daughters welcomed the Dynamo Team on their arrival at JFK on 17 Feb 1969 (see NYTimes of 18 Feb 1969) The party started around 20.30 hrs after the Team and their "company" of the Mission arrived at the Penn Garden directly from a reception at the Mission itself. (At the latter KOSACH Yuri and YAREMKO Ivan plus most of the "progressives" were present.) It ended around 23.15 hrs and after that people from the Mission went for drinks with some guests to the bar.

Altogether there were about 70 guests, among them about 25-30 emigres. ROGOVSKY Viktor, of Newark, N.J. welcomed the Team in a short speech after a series of greetings from American Clubs , in the name of "Chornomorska Sich". The Soviet sportsmen were rather reserved in their expressions, reluctantly entered into conversations , and avoided political topics. Among those approached were MEDWID, KIRICHENKO, Khmelnytsky. The talking went around ~~purely~~ sports topics , and only MARTYNIUK, fnu, aged approx. 50, head of the Soccer Alliance of the Ukr SSR who was in charge of the Team , assured once or twice , that he hoped in the future the Ukraine will have its own sports teams, on international arena , incl. Olympic Games. He was also the one who replied to all the welcome speeches.

2. Source identified following people from the Mission:

BOLBOTENKO Leonid, 1st Secretary;

KRAVETS, Petro , Counsellor, (deputy of POLANYCHKO ?)

ROMANIUK, fnu, aged 45-50, 1st Secretary

BOLBOTENKO was rather reserved and reluctant to enter into any sort of political conversation. He and the others replied to questions about the latest events in the Ukraine that all they knew they learned from Svoboda and other emigre publications and so far had no explanation from Kiev. So they could make no comment.

MARTYNIUK suggested to our Source that it would be a good idea to arrange for a meeting with POLANYCHKO to discuss all those problems connected with cultural contacts. KRAVETS was most talkative among them and willing to discuss all "pertinent problems".

After the party Source went with KRAVETS to the bar where they talked until about 01.30 hrs. Following are the topics of their conversation.

3. KRAVETS blamed Dr KLACHKO Mary, HOLUBNYCHY Vsevolod, and Source for cooling off of the contacts at the present. He denied that he was a "hawk" on these matters and represented pro-Russian hard line . He was just ~~pro-Russian~~ Soviet but by no means an exponent of Russian chauvinism or Stalinist tendencies. On the contrary, he was a Ukrainian intellectual and the interests of Ukrainian people were deep in his heart.

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He seemed to be very keen on convincing Source and others that he was no "hawk" and evidently was unhappy about his present reputation among emigres.

4. To Source's assertion that now Ukrainian emigres will have to talk with Chinese in view of the recent developments in the Ukraine and on Soviet-Chinese border, KRAVETS tried to convince Source that this was wrong, because Russians and Ukrainians, both Soviet and emigre, should establish a common front against the Chinese danger. He dwelt for a long time upon all the threats from the Chinese, how cruel they are, how irresponsible, and how hostile to all peoples of the Soviet Union. Source replied that at least the Chinese won't make Chinese out of Ukrainians and other non-Russians whereas Russians are speeding up with Russification. KRAVETS did not give in and said that in view of "the new developments" he was sure that Ukrainians would get more and more concessions and things Ukrainian will get better and better. This will only facilitate contacts between Sov Ukrainians and emigres.

5. KRAVETS also stressed that he hoped for improvement of cultural contacts with emigres in this country in connection with a general improvement in Soviet - American relations. He praised new administration as realistic and practical.

6. KRAVETS denied that there is a return of Stalinism in the Soviet Union. In his opinion "we are just trying to find a balance" and on this occasion criticized KHRUSHCHEV who was "no good".

7. KRAVETS suggested that Source and others should visit Kiev this summer and meet with competent people. He also was in favor of arranging for some working conditions ~~xxxx~~ between the Mission and the emigres for the purpose of maintaining cultural contacts with Kiev. Once or twice he remarked, however, that there were among emigres many people who did not approach the matter of cultural exchange with sincere intentions.



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